

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are currently pending.

In the August 24, 2007 Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-15 and 19-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,392,669 to Matoba et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,765 to Pietropaolo et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,380,953 to Mizuno; claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matoba et al., Pietropaolo et al., Mizuno and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,414,686 to Protheroe et al. Claims 6, 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Matoba et al., Pietropaolo et al., Mizuno and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,538,665 to Crow et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Before considering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103, it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of the independent claims would be helpful. In this regard, independent claim 1 is directed to a reservation registration apparatus for performing a reservation registration process of causing an arbitrary reservation subject to be manipulated at a specified starting time. The reservation registration apparatus includes, among other things, a process control mechanism configured to control a power supply and to control the performance of the reservation subject according to the starting time of the reservation time.

By way of non-limiting example, the specification teaches at page 13, line 3 et seq., a microcontroller board 75 having direct connections established with a power supply division and a microcontroller 89 always in operation even when a main unit 2 is in a powered-off state. The microcontroller 89 controls the power supply division and starts to supply power to the main unit 2. As discussed at page 34, line 4 et seq. the microcontroller 89 operates based on reservation setting information stored in a self-contained memory. Upon reaching a starting date and time set in the reservation setting information, the microcontroller starts up

the powered-off main unit 2 to implement the reservation subject, or execute a program set by the personal timer.

Independent claim 7 is directed to a method of reservation registration for performing a reservation registration process of causing an arbitrary reservation subject to be manipulated at a specified starting time. The method includes, among other steps, controlling a power supply and performance of the reservation subject according to the starting time of the reservation time. Claim 13 is directed to a computer readable medium storing computer program instructions for implementing the method of claim 7.

The official action concedes on page 4 that neither Matoba nor Pietropaolo “teach controlling the power supply to the scheduling apparatus.” Applicants agree. However, the official action further asserts that Mizuno teaches a control mechanism for controlling a power supply. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Figure 10A and column 10, lines 30-39 of Mizuno merely teach that the steps illustrated in Figure 10A are initiated when the power supply to the computer is turned on. Mizuno fails to teach or suggest a process control mechanism which controls a power supply turn on according to a start time of a reservation. Thus, Mizuno does not cure the deficiencies of Matoba et al. and Pietropaolo et al.

The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

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Reply to Office Action of August 24, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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